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INTELLIGENCE ABUSES CURBED, PANEL SAYS

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Report Calls Agencies Now Fully Accountable to the President and to Congress

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WASHINGTON, May 18—The Senate's Select Committee on Intelligence said today that it believed the nation's intelligence agencies were now fully accountable to the President and Congress, but it said that strict legislative charters would be needed to insure against a repetition of the "widespread abuses of the past."

The committee, in a report to the full Senate marking the end of its first year of activity, said it intended to make proposals in the months ahead that would concentrate authority for the intelligence community in a single office and provide legal safeguards against improper conduct.

It also indicated that in the future it intended to focus attention not only on abuses, but on the quality and the adequacy of the intelligence product.

Wise Management Needed

"Increasingly, the Congress has begun to utilize substantive analysis produced by the intelligence agencies in formulating its position on policy issues, ranging from agriculture to energy to foreign economics," the report said. "The Intelligence Committee has a key role in insuring that Congress is provided with the intelligence it requires, in insuring that the intelligence community produces the best quality analysis, and that the American intelligence effort is being managed wisely and effectively."

A significant portion of the 40-page report concerned the need to concentrate National Intelligence," and to legislate strong safeguards against abuses.

Although the head of the Central Intelligence Agency carries the title "Director of Central Intelligence," he has no budget control and hence no real authority over large segments of the intelligence community, particularly those agencies housed within the Department of Defense.

The current thinking of the committee, according to the report, is to give the "Director of National Intelligence" meaningful authority over these agencies, making the office responsible for their activities.

Budget and Priority Control

"The need to strengthen the director's authority cannot be separated from the accompanying need to increase accountability within the executive branch," the report said. "Those in charge of intelligence activities should be accountable to the President, the Congress, and the public."

The single office envisioned by the committee would have significant control over the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency, as well as the National Security Agency, which conducts worldwide communications intercepts and code-breaking activities, and the Defense Intelligence Agency.

This authority would include control over the annual budgets, coordinating all clandestine gathering of intelligence and setting priorities for the various agencies.

At the same time, however, the committee report stressed the need to maintain "strong independent competing centers of analysis," to guarantee that dissenting views were recorded and to achieve the best analysis available.

Limitations on U.S. Citizens

The report suggested that the committee was drawing heavily from the work of a predecessor committee headed by Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, in its proposals for a charter that would limit intelligence activities against United States citizens.

Without locking itself into specific recommendations, the report said that its attempts to shape charters for intelligence activities should not be directed against citizens "solely" because of political activities, and that intelligence should not be gathered or disseminated for political reasons.

The committee also indicated that it was considering flat prohibitions of some forms of clandestine activities, including the use of assassinations, terrorism, creation of epidemics and the overthrow of democratic governments, as well as the use of press or religious organizations to gather intelligence abroad.

One dissenting view was filed by Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Democrat of New York, who complained that the committee had suggested in its report that the United States was more threatened by the activities of its own Government than by hostile foreign governments.